

Press Release

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Corps lowering lakes to winter pool levels

HUNTINGTON, WV... Within the next several weeks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin lowering water levels at its lake projects to reach their winter pool elevations. All lakes will be at winter lake elevations by the end of November.

Corps-managed lakes that will begin their fall drawdown over the next several weeks include Delaware, Deer Creek, and Paint Creek along tributaries of the Scioto River; Dillon on the Licking River; Burnsville on the Little Kanawha River; Sutton on the Elk River, Bluestone on the New River; R.D. Bailey on the Guyandotte River; Beech Fork and East Lynn on Twelvepole Creek; Grayson on the Little Sandy River; and North Fork of Pound, John W. Flannagan; Fishtrap, Dewey and Yatesville on tributaries of the Big Sandy River.

Summersville Lake on the Gauley River in West Virginia will begin lowering its lake level this weekend. Despite record-breaking heat and lower water condition, the Corps has balanced its water use requirements at Summersville Lake to maintain the recreation season and ensure a full Gauley River whitewater season. Whitewater releases are scheduled for four-day weekends Friday through Monday, beginning Sept. 7, and ending Monday, Oct. 8, and for the weekend of Oct 13-14 and Oct. 21. Water releases during this time will range up to 21,000 gallons per second or 2800 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Due to the water supply function for the City of Columbus, Alum Creek Lake in Ohio is already below winter pool. There are currently no significant impacts or hazards although boaters are encouraged to use caution as water levels continue to drop. The lake is currently dropping 1/2 - 3/4 inch per day. This rate could increase as withdrawal rates increase in the coming weeks.

The lake levels are lowered in the fall to increase the amount of flood storage available. The levels are raised in the spring for recreation purposes after the normal flood season. The raising and lowering of all Corps lakes is coordinated with state and federal agencies. Visitors using our lakes for recreation are encouraged to use caution and be aware of changes in water levels when boating, swimming, fishing or participating in other water-related activities.

For more information or details on lake levels at specific lakes, visit our water information website at <http://www.lrh-wc.usace.army.mil/home.html> or contact Public Affairs at 304-399-5353.